



**USAID**  
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

**BOLIVIA**

## SUPPORT TO POTOSÍ

***Through the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), the U.S. Government has a comprehensive assistance program that supports the Bolivian Government's National Development Plan.***



*A mother cooks using foods provided through USAID's Maternal/Child Health and Nutrition Program.*

Through its official foreign assistance agency, the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), the U.S. Government supports development in 15 municipalities in the department of Potosí. Projects seek to reduce poverty through economic growth generated by enterprise development and increased productivity; improve access to health care for the poor; and strengthen democratic processes and institutions. USAID programs create opportunities for marginalized populations while promoting their social, political and economic inclusion.

### **ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES FOR SMALL FARMERS**

USAID supports the development of financial services, particularly with credit unions. The introduction of new financial services provides more opportunities for people to more efficiently manage their money and facilitates the sending and receipt of remittances at competitive rates.

In 2006, 12 institutions – including small farmer groups, marketing firms, and USAID – joined together to form the Quinoa Alliance, to increase the production of organic quinoa from 5,000 to 30,000 tons annually; improve land management and quinoa processing; and link this improved production to higher paying export markets. The initiative is leading to important increases in incomes for indigenous farmers in Potosí and Oruro.

### **IMPROVING THE HEALTH OF BOLIVIANS**

USAID seeks to improve the health of underserved Bolivians by increasing access to quality health services through the strengthening public and NGO health facilities and networks. Our program supports the Ministry of Health's policy of extending services to rural areas, with a special focus on family and community health.

USAID coordinates with local NGOs to implement community health programs, supporting initiatives relating to nutrition, maternal-child health and the prevention and control of infectious diseases.

### **FOOD SECURITY**

USAID's Food for Work program supports local development and health care initiatives in areas of major food insecurity in Bolivia. In peri-urban and rural areas, USAID works with municipal governments, the departmental government and local agricultural organizations to support the construction of irrigation and basic sanitary systems, community agricultural production and the management of natural resources. In addition, child nutrition and maternal-child health receive special attention and close monitoring. Two examples of this work are the Tomoyo irrigation system in the municipality of Ravelo and a sewer system project in the city of Potosí. In rural municipalities such as Toro Toro, initiatives supporting the development of roads and basic services help the community tap into its tourism potential, thereby strengthening the local economy.



*The Food for Work program  
helps promote community  
development in Potosi.*

## **ENVIRONMENT**

The City of Potosi has more than 30 mineral processing plants that capture high value products such as silver and tin from the Cerro Rico mine. USAID is providing support to a number of these plants to introduce cleaner production technologies, which make their processes more efficient and less polluting.

## **EFFECTIVE DEPARTMENTAL GOVERNMENTS**

As it does worldwide, USAID is providing technical assistance in basic institutional strengthening and training to Bolivia's departmental governments to help them effectively assume their new roles in planning, financing, and delivering services to citizens. In Potosí, USAID support is helping the prefecture to better plan important regional development projects and public investment.

# USAID in POTOSI

Municipalities where at least one USAID Project is Active

